

NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Advanced Education

FIRST FINE ARTS DEGREE IN NORTH BLENDS WRITING, ART

PRINCE GEORGE – The first fine arts degree program in the North has been approved by the Province and will be offered by the University of Northern B.C. in partnership with the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, Prince George-Mount Robson MLA Shirley Bond said today.

“Starting in September, students in the North will be able to earn a bachelor of fine arts without having to move elsewhere in B.C. or leave the province entirely,” said Bond, who is also Education Minister. “Central northern B.C. has a wonderfully rich and varied arts scene, and this program will support it as it becomes even better.”

The bachelor of fine arts requires study in both writing and the visual arts. Students must earn half their credits from UNBC in creative writing and English literature. The other credits in art and art history will come from Emily Carr, which will offer courses in Prince George and online. Students will also be able to take studio courses at Emily Carr in the summer if they wish.

“Our government’s Degree Authorization Act is giving British Columbians access to the education they want, where they want it,” said Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell, who approves all new degrees to be offered in B.C. “This partnership between UNBC and Emily Carr is the perfect example of two highly regarded institutions combining their strengths to create a unique program students want and need.”

First-year students will develop foundation skills, and will go on to build expertise in several different disciplines during their second and third years. Their fourth year will focus on independent studio work.

“Cultivating the arts has always been part of UNBC’s vision in serving the North,” said Don Cozzetto, president of UNBC. “This bachelor of fine arts program allows UNBC to develop a new focus on the visual arts while building on our strengths in creative writing and media studies.”

“The Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design works with other post-secondary institutions around the province to give students more access to our world-class programs,” said Ron Burnett, president of Emily Carr. “This innovative program will allow students at UNBC to take visual arts courses in Prince George, online and in our Vancouver studios.”

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Since 2003, more than 140 new undergraduate and graduate degree programs have been approved, including five master's and two bachelor's degrees at UNBC, and two master's degrees at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. These new programs are helping B.C. improve its competitiveness and productivity through education and skills training, part of government's Pacific Leadership Agenda.

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